

IN THE CLAIMS:

Prior to examination, please cancel claims 1-11, and add the following new claims 1-16.

1. (New) A method of filtering incoming packets, comprising:
storing a list of addresses;
receiving an incoming packet having a source address;
comparing the source address of the incoming packet to the list of addresses; and
filtering the incoming packet prior to a data link layer 2 of the OSI protocol stack, if the source address matches an address in the list.
2. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the data link layer 2 of the OSI protocol stack comprises at least one function selected from the group of a data decapsulation function and a media access management function.
3. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the data decapsulation function comprises at least one function selected from the group of recognizing a destination address of the incoming packet, determining if the destination address matches a receiving address, performing error checking, and removing encapsulation control information.
4. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said filtering comprises dropping the packet.
5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said filtering comprises passing the packet.
6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming packets are transporting at least one signal selected from the group of a voice signal, an image signal, and a data signal.

7. (New) A method of filtering incoming packets, comprising:
storing a list of addresses;
receiving an incoming packet having a source address;
comparing the source address of the incoming packet to the list of addresses; and
filtering the incoming packet prior to performing at least one function selected from the group of a data decapsulation function and a media access management function, if the source address matches an address in the list.

8 (New) method of claim 7, wherein said filtering comprises dropping the packet.

9. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said filtering comprises passing the packet.

10. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the incoming packets are transporting at least one signal selected from the group of a voice signal, an image signal, and a data signal.

11. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the data decapsulation function comprises at least one function selected from the group of recognizing a destination address of the incoming packet, determining if the destination address matches a receiving address, performing error checking, and removing encapsulation control information.

12. (New) A device having packet filtering capability, comprising:
a memory;
a processor operably coupled with the memory; and
a network interface operably coupled with the processor, the network interface adapted to receive an incoming packet having a source address;
the memory having stored therein a list comprising a plurality of addresses
the processor being programmed to filter the incoming packet prior to performing at least one function selected from the group of a data decapsulation function and a media access management function, if the source address matches an address in the list.

13. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein the data decapsulation function comprises at least one function selected from the group of recognizing a destination address of the incoming packet, determining if the destination address matches a receiving address, performing error checking, and removing encapsulation control information.

14. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein said processor being programmed to filter comprises said processor being programmed to drop the packet. .

15. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein said processor being programmed to filter comprises said processor being programmed to pass the packet.

16. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein the incoming packet is transporting at least one signal selected from the group of a voice signal, an image signal, and a data signal.